

# CURRENT TOPICS

THE WASHINGTON correspondent for the Louisville Courier-Journal says: "Things are beginning to stir at the headquarters of the democratic congressional campaign committee in Washington. Representative Clark, of Florida, secretary of the organization, will be the active spirit of the headquarters here and Chairman Lloyd will devote much of his time to the work at the Chicago branch. Reports coming to the committee indicate that the nominees in a number of districts now represented by republicans have great encouragement and it is expected that substantial gains will be made in a number of the western states where the republicans have small margins to work on."

A LINCOLN (Neb.) dispatch to the New York World follows: "Mr. Bryan seemed to be not much impressed by Secretary Taft's statement that no campaign contributions from corporations would be accepted by the republican party. He smiled when it was read to him. Finally he said: 'You can say this: We welcome Mr. Taft to this advanced ground and bid him take another step forward and announce that all individual contributions above a reasonable minimum will be made known before the election.' The view taken here is that the democratic pledge to publish campaign contributions before election has hurt the republicans, and that to counteract its effect Mr. Taft has been obliged to throw a sop to public sentiment. It is believed that George R. Sheldon's appointment as republican national treasurer indicates an intention to milk the corporations and that they will contribute through individual members."

CONCERNING the new chairman of the democratic national committee, the Houston (Texas) Post says: "Norman Edward Mack, the new chairman of the democratic executive committee, and who will manage the campaign of William Jennings Bryan for the presidency, is the editor and publisher of the Buffalo Times. Mr. Mack is a native of Buffalo and was born in 1858. He was educated in the public schools and then went west, where he engaged in business pursuits. The Weekly Times was established by Mr. Mack in Buffalo in 1879, and then became the Daily Times four years later. He has always taken an active part in politics, fighting the battles of democracy. He was a delegate to the democratic national conventions in 1892, 1896, 1900 and 1904 and has been the New York member of the democratic national committee and member of the executive committee since 1900. Mrs. Mack, who was Miss Harriet B. Taggart of Buffalo, is a well known club woman. She was a member of the board of commissioners of New York to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis in 1904."

SAMUEL GOMPERS, president of the American Federation of Labor, gave to the Associated Press, July 29, a statement from which the following is taken: "The report that I have said that I would or would not deliver the labor vote to any political party is an infamous lie. Organized labor is not only honest, but intelligent enough to choose the party for its support which will best represent its interests. It is possible by lies and misrepresentations the enemies of organized labor may injure me personally and even be successful in accomplishing my removal as president of the American Federation of Labor, but that would never change my course in battling for the principles for which I stand. It is not a question of politics with me. I have no politics, or if I have they are the politics of the people. I fully expected when I took the stand which I have that some would disagree with me. I don't expect the labor world to accept my conclusions in every instance. I expected to be criticised, too, in some quarters, but I did not think that the criticisms would be so unjust as to be contemptible. I stand for the right of individual opinion. I regard my position as president of the American Federation of Labor as the most exalted and

honorable in this world to which I could ever wish to aspire. It is a sacred trust with which my fellows have honored me because of my convictions and the principles which I advocate. They may take that honor away from me if they like, and I will bow to their will, but it will not prevent me from fighting for the cause which is my life's work, just as I have in the past and as I promise to do in the future. I want no political office or honor. I have nothing for sale and don't propose to begin at this late day by selling my honor. What I think and what I say is from conscientious conviction that it is the truth. No one can make me sacrifice my honest conviction. My editorial in the American Federationist plainly and forcibly sets forth my position. He who runs may read and understand. Those who have taken issue with the position therein set forth—not, understand me, with the position I am alleged to have assumed—are political renegades and discredited outcasts of labor. I don't mean that those who differ with my opinion are such, but those who have denounced me and claim that I have not set forth the facts as they are."

BIRD S. COLER, who is thoroughly familiar with New York politics, predicts that Bryan and Kern will win the electoral vote of New York state. In a newspaper interview Mr. Coler said: "The election of Mr. Mack to the chairmanship of the national committee is an honor to the democracy of the east, and there was a general feeling among the national committeemen that no better man could have been named for the place. I told Mr. Mack in Chicago on Saturday that we democrats at the eastern end of the state would pitch in and aid him in every way possible to make victory certain in the Empire state this year. There is great enthusiasm everywhere for the ticket and it looks as though we were going to win a big victory this year. Personally I propose to get out in this state and do everything I can to bring success to the democratic candidates."

THE PROGRAM for the notification meeting at Lincoln on August 12, has been completed. It will be a modest as well as a non-partisan affair. The following is from the Lincoln (Neb.) Journal:

The day will open with a salute of forty-six guns fired at sunrise in honor of the democratic candidate. Bands will play at the capitol grounds and government square during the forenoon. At 2 o'clock the notification ceremony will start and will occur at the capitol grounds on a platform erected on the north side of the building. The platform will accommodate fully 200 people. In this number will be included from thirty to fifty newspaper men from all parts of the country, several photographers, and a few artists. Telegraph and telephone instruments will be placed on the platform to keep the outside world constantly informed of the activities. Especial attention is to be paid to the representatives of the press. Mayor Brown announced yesterday that any newspaper desiring admission to the press stand should send in the name of the representative, and get a badge. This invitation is not limited to metropolitan papers, but is extended to all weekly papers of Nebraska. When the names are all in, that number of badges will be made, and no others will be admitted to the stand with the newspaper men.

Adjutant General Schwarz will be asked to select the twenty mounted men who are to escort the party from the Lincoln hotel to the capitol grounds. He will also be invited to take charge of the firing of the salute at sunrise.

The speech of notification will be given by Congressman H. D. Clayton of Alabama, who was permanent chairman of the Denver convention. This will take place at 2 o'clock and Mr. Bryan will follow, responding with his address of acceptance.

Governor Sheldon, all of the state officials, and a committee of non-partisan citizens of Lincoln will take part in the exercises and help

entertain the visitors to the city. Mayor Brown expects that a large crowd of state people will come to Lincoln for the occasion and he desires to give them a non-partisan welcome. In order to do this he is arranging with republicans and democrats to give the visitors the best the city has.

The notification day program was given out yesterday morning after having been approved by Mr. Bryan and Governor Sheldon, to whom it had been submitted for suggestions on changes to be made. In full it is as follows:

Sunrise—Salute of forty-six guns.

10 a. m.—Band concerts on the capitol grounds and government square.

Noon—Luncheon given to Mr. Bryan and Mr. Kern, nominee for vice president, and members of the notification committee at the Lincoln hotel.

1:30 p. m.—Notification committee, with Messrs. Bryan and Kern, escorted in carriages to the capitol grounds, a platoon of police and the Nebraska state band leading.

2:00 p. m.—Notification ceremony starts.

4:30 p. m.—Informal reception by Mr. Bryan to the public, in the capitol.

6:30 p. m.—Dinner given by Mr. Bryan on the lawn at Fairview to the members of the committee and Mr. Kern.

## DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE'S WORK

A branch of the democratic national headquarters has been opened at the Hoffman house, New York City.

An Associated Press dispatch follows:

Buffalo, N. Y., July 31.—Chairman Mack, of the democratic national committee, today appointed committees to serve during the campaign. The members of the labor committees are all members of the national committee. He will announce next week the committee on finance and speakers. The appointment of a sub-committee for the eastern and New York headquarters will be taken up on the return of Chairman Mack to Chicago in about a week. The committees named to date are:

Executive Committee—Norman E. Mack, chairman, New York; P. L. Hall, vice chairman, Nebraska; Urey Woodson, Kentucky; Martin J. Wade, Iowa; Josephus Daniels, North Carolina; Thomas Taggart, Indiana; John T. McGraw, West Virginia; George G. Greene, Rhode Island; R. M. Johnson, Texas; Clark Howell, Georgia; T. E. Ryan, Wisconsin; J. F. C. Talbot, Maryland; John W. Tomlinson, Alabama; John E. Osborne, Wyoming; James S. Kerr, Pennsylvania; F. P. Lynch, Minnesota; Edwin O. Wood, Michigan; Nathan Cole, Jr., California; Robert Ewing, Louisiana; Harvey C. Garber, Ohio.

Advisory Committee—David R. Francis, chairman, Missouri; J. G. Johnson, secretary, Kansas; Alton B. Parker, New York; John Sharp Williams, Mississippi; Governor John A. Johnson, Minnesota; Senator Isadore Rayner, Maryland; Governor George Chamberlain, Oregon; Hoke Smith, Georgia; John E. Lamb, Indiana; M. E. Ingalls, Ohio; Josiah Quincy, Massachusetts; George Ehret, New York; Irving C. Handy, Delaware; Archibald McNeil, Connecticut; James K. McGuire, New York; J. K. O'Donnell, Illinois; James E. Campbell, Ohio.

Labor Committee—Martin J. Wade, chairman, Iowa; Roger Sullivan, Illinois; T. E. Ryan, Wisconsin; Robert S. Hudspeth, New Jersey; W. A. Rothwell, Missouri; E. S. Johnson, South Dakota; Edwin A. Newman, District of Columbia.

Campaign Text Book Committee—John E. Lamb, chairman, Indiana; Josephus Daniels, North Carolina; Richard L. Metcalfe, Nebraska.

## A GOOD JOKE

The Buffalo News recently displayed a banner showing pictures of Messrs. Taft and Sherman. Under the pictures was the inscription, "Republican prosperity." This moved the Buffalo Progress to say: "Since the banner was hoisted some thousands of unemployed citizens of Buffalo have read the inscription—and wondered what the joke was."